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GENEALOGY

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ONE BRANCH

OF THE

WEBSTER FAMILY.

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1600 TO 1900.

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PREFACE.

Having during the last twenty-five years collected from various sources considerable information in regard to the Litchfield branch of the Webster family, I thought best to have it printed in order to better preserve and transmit to future generations this record of descent from the years 1635 to the present time. The source of my information in most cases is given in the following pages.

A. W. WEBSTER.

NEW HAVEN, CT., 1900.

JOHN WEBSTER.

The Fifth Colonial Governor of Connecticut.

JOHN WEBSTER and his wife Agnes came to this country from Warwickshire, England, in the Spring of the year 1635, and settled at Cambridge, Mass. During the year a company of about one hundred was organized for the purpose of traveling across the country to found a colony on the banks of the Connecticut river. The following account of this journey, taken from Hollister's History of Connecticut, is quite interesting, when we stop and think that the same distance can be traveled now in three or four hours :

Hollister says, " About the beginning of June, 1636, Mr. Hooker, Mr. Stone, Mr. Webster, and about one hundred men, women and children, set out upon the long-contemplated journey. Over mountains, through swamps, across rivers, fording some, crossing others upon rudely constructed rafts, with the compass to point out their irregular way, slowly they moved westward, driving their flocks and herds before them, the strong supporting the weak, the old caring for the young ; with hearts cheerful as the month slowly they moved on. Mrs. Hooker was ill and was borne upon a litter. A stately, well ordered journey it was, for gentlemen of fortune and rank were of the company, and ladies who had been delicately bred and who had known little of trial or hardship until now. * * * At the end of about two weeks they reached the land almost fabulous to them—the valley of the Connecticut."

Quoting further from Hollister's history he says : " The first English planters of Connecticut were of no vulgar origin. * * * The planters, the substantial land holders who began to plant in the wilderness, sprung from the better classes, and a large proportion of them were from the landed gentry of England." Again he says : " I believe that there is hardly a man living whose descent can be traced to the early planters of Connecticut, who will not be found to be derived through one branch or another of his pedigree, from the families who

helped to frame the British Constitution, who elevated by slow degrees the common law, who advocated the doctrines of both with their tongues and pens, or defended them with their swords."

In those early days of the colony labor and toil was looked upon with the greatest respect. Hollister says, "Governor Webster and Governor Wells, if they did not labor with their own hands, taught their sons to toil."

Benjamin Trumbull in his history of Connecticut says, "For twenty years Mr. John Webster had been annually chosen into the magistracy of Connecticut, being elected Governor in 1656. At the election in Hartford, May 17th, 1655, Thomas Wells was elected Governor and John Webster Deputy Governor. At the election in 1656 John Webster was elected Governor and Thomas Wells Deputy Governor. At the election in 1657 John Winthrop was elected Governor, Thomas Wells Deputy Governor, and John Webster Chief Magistrate. Mr. Webster removed to Hadley, Mass., in 1659."

J. Hammond Trumbull, L. L. D., in his Memorial History of Hartford County, says: Hadley, Mass., which then included the present towns of Hadley, Amherst, Granby, Hatfield and South Hadley, was a direct outgrowth from Hartford, Conn., assisted by Wethersfield. It was started by a strong body of able men, who had become uneasy with the long debate and strife in the First church in Hartford. Mr. Webster and Mr. Russell, of Wethersfield, appear to have been the leaders in the settlement of Hadley, Mass. * * * * John Webster was an original proprietor of Hartford, and his home lot, in 1639, was on the east side of the street now called Governor Street. Mr. Webster was one of the committee who for the first time sat with the Court of Magistrates, in 1637.*** He was one of the committee who framed the code of criminal laws for the colony in 1642, was a commissioner for the united colonies in 1654, was an influential member in the church in Hartford, and was one of the leaders of the Hadley company, moving to Hadley in 1659, where he died, April 5th, 1661."

The following article, signed "Historious," taken from the Hartford Courant of October 25th, 1845, will make a fitting ending to this historical sketch of the life of John Webster:

JOHN WEBSTER.

There is rust, much of it generally, on the hinges of time. Sometimes it yields to the file of the antiquarian, and the gates of the past swing wide open, and we see clearly. Sometimes this rust defies the file, and labor retreats defeated and disappointed. Sometimes we find but a crevice, opened out from the rubbish of years, from which to catch glimpses of what was and has been done. It is through such a crevice, reader, now, that we open on the biographic dwelling of the fifth Governor of Connecticut, John Webster. Small is the light to shine in upon its apartments, and disclose their conformation and their contents. Still this light will enable us to see something, shades of what was if not the substance; figures at least of some of life's furniture, if not the furniture itself. Perhaps the household place, the heart of the indweller, may reflect somewhat to our eyes. Let us take a peep!

John Webster was one of the original settlers and founders of Connecticut. He was from Warwickshire in England, and his name appears among our earliest records, dignified with the then imposing prefix of Mr.—a prefix with which only ten gentlemen besides himself, out of the one hundred and fifty-three original settlers, were honored. The ordinary title of address at this period was Goodman, or Goodwife, or Goodwoman, often contracted into Goody, or Neighbor. Clergymen, magistrates, doctors, schoolmasters, those who being freemen had received a second degree at college, and after a while eminent merchants, military captains, and captains of vessels, and sometimes the mates of the vessels—these were all addressed as Mr. and their wives each as Mrs., but many years elapsed ere the distinction of rank and title to which the first settlers were accustomed in the parent country disappeared from their colonial life. Their chief men, who emigrated with means and rank of distinction in England, were looked up to by the people in general with something of awe and without familiarity—a circumstance which at that period does not seem in the least to have impaired their influence. Now-a-days these distinctions won't do; everybody claims a respectful handle to his name, and properly so if he behaves himself.

Esquires and Colonels are as thick as blackberries, and if greatness ever attempts to walk on stilts it is sure, in our political world, to tumble.

Mr. Webster was very early elevated to official position in the Colony. He was elected magistrate in 1637, and with the exception of a single year, was annually elected to this office till 1660. In 1654 he was one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, and in 1655 was Deputy Governor and in 1656 Governor of the Colony.

During this whole period he was active in the administration of the government, and associated as adviser and counselor in many important movements. The duties to which in former articles we have called attention, those of deciding controversies about bounds, or arbitrating on lands, of distributing estates, of auditing the accounts of the treasury, and of answering petitions, Mr. Webster, prior to his election as Governor, is frequently directed by the General Court to discharge. He was one of the committee appointed in 1639 to confer with New Haven in relation to the murderous attacks from the Indians at Middletown, and he bore the banner of war against the haughty and insulting Sowheag when our sister of Quinnipiac turned her face from it, and her milder counsel prevailed. The New England Congress employed him in 1649 "to set forth on the towns" soldiers and ammunition for an expedition against the Indians. For similar expeditions he was at other times chosen "to press men and ammunition," or appointed one of the advisers with whom the constables of each town were "to take advise in the pressing of men." In 1645 he was appointed by the General Court with others to examine and arrange "all particular and several charges of the late war" with the Narragansetts "and for the support of Uncas," of which charges they directed to cause the constables of Hartford to bring in a full account. When it was determined to provide a frigate of ten or twelve guns to defend the coast of Long Island against the Dutch and Ninigrate, he was one of the Committee "to treat with the owners of the frigate, and agree with them for the use of the same." In the matter of the agreement with Mr. Fenwick and the impost duty at the mouth of the river he was frequently called to act, and also

to license the exportation of provisions in times of scarcity. He made journeys as magistrate to the seaside and elsewhere to administer justice. He was employed in drawing up correspondence with friends of the colony in England. He surveyed the highway between Hartford and Windsor and overlooked its "amendment." He was one of the committee who purchased and disposed of Simsbury. At times he aided in drawing up abstracts of grievances to be presented to the New England Congress for its deliberation. In 1640 he acted on a committee curious and peculiar for the indication it gives of the times as any which we have noticed. He was appointed with Mr. Phelps "to consult with the elders of both plantations" to prepare instructions against the next General Court for the punishment of the sin of lying, "which," says the Record, "begins to be practiced by many people in this commonwealth." What a singular tribute to the virtue of the time, that the sin of lying did not begin in Connecticut till 1640! Five years of uninterrupted truth-telling. When shall be found elsewhere a page of history halcyon as this!

As a member of the New England Congress of 1654, Mr. Webster was called to deliberate on a new expedition against Ninigrate, upon the difficulties of New Haven with Delaware Bay, upon plans for "the better passage of the gospel among the Indians," for the education of some of them at Cambridge College, and for the extension and repair of the buildings of this institution. What a singular union of objects in relation to the same class of persons! In one hand the sword, in the other the Bible and the arts of peace! The Indian is at the same time to be attacked, to be Christianized, and to be made a "scollar of" at Cambridge! To several letters and sets of instructions for these purposes the name of John Webster is in every instance signed, and the correspondence with the Swedish Governor of Delaware Bay supposes him and his colleagues to be scholars themselves, for the letter addressed to them is written in Latin.

Mr. Webster as Governor—but before we speak particularly of his administration, it is well, as we have space in this biography for the purpose, to give the reader an exact idea of this office as it was under the Constitution of 1639, differing as it

did very materially from this office now. In the first place then the incumbent must have been a magistrate, and was to be a freeman, and always a member of some "appointed congregation." His election was by ballot, by the greatest number of votes, given on the second Thursday in April in each year by all who had been admitted freemen and had taken the oath of fidelity, and "did cohabit with this jurisdiction." The convention for this purpose was held at Hartford, and the General Court had a session at the same time and chose one or more persons to tell the voters who were sworn "to be faithful therein." Immediately upon his election, which was for one year, and which until 1660 could not be made of the same person but once in two years, the Governor appeared before the General Assembly, and there took the following solemn and characteristic oath:

"I, A. B., being now chosen to be Governor within this jurisdiction, for the year ensuing, and until a new one be chosen, do swear by the great and dreadful name of the ever living God to promote the public good and peace of the same, according to the best of my skill, and also will maintain all lawful privileges of this Commonwealth, and also that all wholesome laws that are or shall be made by lawful authority here established be duly executed, according to the rule of God's word--so help me God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

This imposing oath states generally the power and duties of the Governor, viz: To promote the public good, maintain all lawful privileges, and duly execute the laws. In addition to these it was his duty particularly by himself or his secretary, to issue his summons to the constables of each town for the calling of the two General Assemblies. Upon special occasions, with the advice and special consent of the major part of the magistrates, he was to summon them within fourteen days warning, or if urgent necessity required upon a shorter notice, stating the reasons in his warrant. When met it was his duty to preside over them, convening as all the branches did in one body, and he had power "to order the Court to give liberty of speech, and to silence unreasonable and disorderly speakings, and to put all things to vote, and in case the vote was equal

to give himself a casting vote." The Governor was also at the same time a Magistrate, and in this capacity with his colleagues held Particular Courts, over which he presided, now at one place and now at another, having power to administer justice according to the rule of his oath established, and "for want thereof according to the word of God." In addition to this the Governor was most generally appointed to serve as one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, and to act upon important committees, and to manage the chief correspondence of the Colony, and to act as principal adviser in all emergencies. For these various and numerous duties he received no pecuniary compensation till the year 1647 when "by reason of his many weighty occasions, expenses and chardges," it was ordered that there should be "yearly allowed to that place £30," which was the first salary granted to any civil officer in the service of the Colony.

Thus then the Governor of our state in old times was at once Chief Executive Office, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice, Chief Scribe, Chief Magistrate, and Chief Counsellor! What would be thought now of such a union of powers and duties? Constitutional liberty in modern times rests chiefly on the division and separation of legislative, judicial and executive authority. Let one intrude for an instant on either of the others, and freedom flutters as if it had received a wound, and the pillars of government seem toppling over an abyss, and the eloquence of a whole nation bursts forth in alarm. We are now in civil and political matters all machinery, all checks and balances, all caution, all distrust. The age of confidence has wholly passed. That was the iron age of our ancestors. It was the age of Connecticut under its first Civil Constitution. It was the age of Haynes, and Hopkins, and Wyllys, and Wells, and it was the age also of John Webster, the subject of our present biography, to whom we are now prepared to return, with your means reader, for appreciating him improved, we trust, by this short digression on the office to which, in 1656, he was called by the united vote of the Freemen.

The year of his administration was one uncommonly free from Indian disturbances. With the exception of an act

which was passed forbidding the sale to any Indian of any horse or mare, or boat or rigging, its legislation has no connection with tomahawks and scalping knives, but relates to matters purely civil, among which is addition to regulations about the sale of spirituous liquors, and playing with dice or cards, and about swine "from whose unruliness damage doth accrue," we notice some curious orders with regard to butchers and "the mystery of tanning" as it is called in the records and one order which shows that whatever it may have been with the sin of lying, the sin of theft, and the theft of wolves, had made some progress in the colony, for it is ordered "that what person soever, either Indians, or English, shall take any wolves in, whereby they would defraud the right owner of their due from the town or county, every such offender to pay 10s. to the owner of the pit, or to be whipped on their naked bodies not exceeding six stripes." The general quiet that prevailed during the year of Governor Webster's administration is fully indicated by the appointment this year of a thanksgiving, to be celebrated, says the record, on account of "the general concurrences of many mercies." From all this we may conclude that Governor Webster discharged all his duties to the full acceptance of the colony, and when we reflect on the extent of responsibility attached to his office, as already described, it will justify the belief that he was a man of high personal integrity and prudence.

There was another matter, however, which came before this General Court, in which Governor Webster was peculiarly active, and which was the foundation of his subsequent relinquishment of Hartford as his place of residence—we refer to the ecclesiastical difference of the period. For several years these had been ripening, till at last not only the Church at Hartford, in which they had their origin, but the whole colony and the whole of New England was torn and distracted by their agitation. They turned chiefly on the points of baptism, church membership, on the form of church government, whether Congregational or Presbyterian, consociated or synodical, and on the right of members of a parish who were not at the same time members in full communion with the church to have a voice in the election of ministers and in the general

management of the church. Governor Webster, in company with elder Wm. Goodwin, Mr. Cullick, and a number of others who were known at this period as Withdrawers, advocated the Congregational form and the strictest construction of doctrines, denying baptism to any except the children of church members in full communion, and excluding all such church members from participating in the choice of a minister and in the general regulation of the church. In this he stood opposed to Mr. Stone, the minister, to a majority of the congregation, and to the General Court. He was always, however, though firm, courteous and sincere in his opposition, the belief being deepened in his mind that he was sustaining the primitive faith and purity of the churches, and the unchanging ecclesiastical practice of the First Settlers. Accordingly in debates which occurred in the General Court during the year in which he was Governor, we find him taking part, and after it had been decided that certain ecclesiastical questions should be debated at Boston, and provision had been made for the "comely and honorable attendance" of the Elders going there, and when it was proposed to call an additional religious Council at Hartford, we find it entered on record "the Governor did personally express himself desiring that the old sad differences in the Church of Christ might be healed, but withheld his vote." He seems to have had little faith in the decisions of Synods and Councils, and not without reason in this instance, since in spite of the many that were convened the breach in the church at Hartford was not healed, but grew wider and wider till 1659, about two years after he had ceased to be Governor, though he still held the office of Assistant, Governor Webster, with fifty-eight other persons from Hartford and Wethersfield, removed to Hadley in Massachusetts.

The agreement for their removal, for "transplanting themselves and families to the plantation purchased on the east side of the River Connecticut, beside Northampton," dated Hartford, April 18th, 1659, at the house of Goodman Ward, is on record at Hadley, and the name of Webster stands at the head of the list. The tract of land which they purchased included the present towns of Hadley, Amherst, South Hadley and Granby, on the east side of the Connecticut River, and Hat-

field and a part of Williamsburgh on the west side. Governor Webster went early in May, 1659, to assist in preparing the settlement, and lodged at Northampton. He was skilled in the management of town business, as is evident from his frequent connection with it while living in Hartford, having been here frequently appointed to divide and allot lands, and supervise the erection of bridges and mills, and the building of galleries and a porch for the meeting house, and the repair of roads. One of his first employments at Hadley seems to have been in laying out new roads, streets and home lots. His own home lot there was on the west side of the street about eighty rods north of the old road to Northampton, and next north of that of his friend, Elder Wm. Goodwin. Soon after he first reached Northampton he was taken severely sick, and in anticipation of death made his will, which is dated the twenty-fifth of June, 1659, and is recorded in the Probate Court of Hampshire County. "I, John Webster," he says in his solemn opening paragraph, "late of Hartford in the jurisdiction of Connecticut, being weak of body, yet sound of mind, imprimis commit my soule into the hands of the Almighty and Most Merciful, hoping to be saved by the alone merits of the Lord Jesus Christ, being washed with His blood, and clothed with His righteousness, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost—Amen. My body I also bequeath to the earth, to be interred with comely burial (if at this time I be taken out of this world) in some part of the new plantation on the east side of the river against Northampton." From this sickness, however, he recovered, but not to survive long, for on the fifth of April, 1661, after active exertion in behalf of the settlement, and the discharge, in company with John Pynchon and Samuel Chapin, of the duties of a judge in courts held alternately at Northampton and Springfield, he expired, his being the second death in the new plantation. He gave directions in his will, it may have been noticed, for his burial at Hadley, and there, undoubtedly, on the neck of the peninsula formed by the winding Connecticut, and overlooking the magnificent gorge between Holyoke and Mount Tom, the remains of the fifth governor of Connecticut now rests. The affection of one of his descendants, Dr. Noah Webster, has marked the spot with a monu-

ment, which tells the bystanders that it was erected "to the memory of John Webster, Esq., one of the first settlers of Hartford in Connecticut, who was many years a magistrate or assistant, and afterwards Deputy Governor and Governor of that Colony, and in 1659, with his three sons, Robert, William and Thomas, associated with others in the purchase and settlement of Hadley, where he died in 1665." [The date of his death here is an error, as Dr. Webster was subsequently convinced, and should be 1661, as appears from the records at Hadley.]

Governor Webster had four sons and three daughters, of whom Robert, the eldest, the principal devisee and sole executor of his will, and commended in his will for "his discretion and faithfulness," settled ultimately upon the old homestead in Hartford, where he left by his wife Susannah, a sister of Governor Robert Treat, five sons and four daughters, the progenitors of a numerous family of Websters in this town and in East Hartford. Robert lived for many years in Middletown, and frequently represented this town in the General Court. His will, 1676, is on our Probate Records, as is also that of his wife Susannah, 1698. He was one of our selectmen in 1672. The late venerable Dr. Noah Webster, of New Haven, was a lineal descendant, through this Robert, from Governor Webster, and took much pains to compile a genealogical table of the family, particularly of his own branch, a copy of which is now lodged among the archives of the Connecticut Historical Society. From this, as well as from other papers politely loaned us by Wm. G. Webster, Esq., and received from the hands of the Rev. Dr. Bacon of New Haven, from whom a valuable memoir of Dr. Webster may be soon expected, it appears that the Governor's son, Matthew, settled in Farmington, and died there leaving a son John—that the Governor's son William, who with his brother Thomas received his father's lands at Hadley, married Mary Reeves in 1671, resided in Hadley and died there in 1687 or '88, probably without children—that the Governor's son Thomas married Abigail Alexander of Northampton and settled ultimately in Northfield, Mass., from which place he was frequently compelled to flee on account of Indian disturbances, but where he died in

1686, leaving several children and that of the Governor's daughters, Anne married John Marsh of Hadley, Elizabeth married William Markham of the same town, and Mary married a Mr. Hunt, the ancestors of the Hunts in Northampton, and became, by the marriage of her daughter Mary with John Ingersoll of Westfield, one of the ancestors of the Ingersolls in Connecticut. For all these children, as well as for several grandchildren, Governor Webster made specific provision in his will, leaving to some pecuniary legacies varying from ten shillings to seventy pounds, and to others lands and houses as well as money, and to his wife Agnes "a bed and comely furniture for the same," as also "his house and lands at Hartford, all the profits of the same during her natural life." He seems to have possessed quite a handsome estate.

The family of the Websters, descended from the Governor, is very numerous and is now widely scattered—a thousand currents from a parent lake. Those interested in their ancestor, being in Hartford or visiting our city, should not fail to take a look at the spot where, in his new and "wilderness world," John Webster first and for many years lived—down in the street we have heretofore christened at Governor's Quarter, the present Cole street.

Here upon the east side, upon a home lot of two acres, nearly upon the spot on which now stands the barn of Peter D. Stillman, Esq., was the dwelling house of the old Governor. His next neighbor on the south was Governor Welles—his next neighbor on the west was Governor Wyllys—his two nearest neighbors on the north, save one, was Governors Hopkins and Haynes. On the east the wigwams of a tribe of peaceful Indians crowded the meadow. The Great Oak "gnarled and unwedgeable," whose destiny to preserve the Royal Parchment delineating those rights which he assisted to establish was then to him unknown, he could see from his front door. The pinnaces that now and then bore down the Long River for trade with the Bay the skins of beaver and otter and the fox, and those which glide with Masons lusty and memorable freight of war when the light of the Pequot race went out, and those which ever and anon, with corn and powder and balls for the Fort at Saybrook, spread a spare can-

vass to the valley winds, these were all in sight to him as he stood upon his stone-step gazing east. And here upon the green sward "round about," fed his milch cows and cropped old Billy, his horse, ready for the pillion, and gambolled his goats and kids. And here too

"When nature pleased, for life itself was new,
And the heart promised what the fancy drew,"

gambolled also our ancestors perhaps Visitant, the Governor's children, sunshine in each little breast, the heart's light laughter on their lips spite of the news that then often "chained their wondering ears" of infant innocence a prey to the tomahawk. Can you not picture the family, reader? But we must leave them. Ere we do though, let us see them as the day is over and they are preparing "to go to bed." Burns will tell us how they appeared:

"The cheerful supper done, wi' serious face,
They turned round the ingle formed a circle wide;
The sire turned o'er wi' patriarchal grace,
The big ha'-bible, 'ance his father's pride;
Those strains that 'ance did sweet in Zion glide,
He waled a portion wi' judicious care,
And 'Let us worship God!' he said, wi' solemn air."

HISTORIOUS.

From "Goodwin's Geneological Notes" and Other Sources.

FIRST GENERATION.

*John Webster, one of the first settlers of Hartford, Ct., and Hadley, Mass., and fifth Governor of the Colony of Connecticut * * * Hon. John Webster died at Hadley, Mass., April 5th, 1661.

SECOND GENERATION.

Children of John and Agnes Webster (named in Mr. Webster's will) were Mathew, William, Thomas, *Robert, Anne, Elizabeth and Mary.

A * denotes the direct line of descent.

THIRD GENERATION.

*Robert Webster was married to Susannah Treat, daughter of Richard Treat, Esq., of Wethersfield, Ct. They settled at Middletown, Ct., and at the organization of the town, in 1651, Robert Webster was chosen Recorder. In 1660 they removed to Hartford, where Robert Webster died in 1676. His widow died in 1705. Their children were:

John Webster, born Nov. 10th, 1653.

Sarah Webster, born June 30th, 1655.

*Jonathan Webster, born Jan. 9th, 1657.

Susanah Webster, born Oct. 25th, 1659.

Their other children were Samuel, Joseph, William and Mary.

FOURTH GENERATION.

*Jonathan Webster of Hartford, Ct., was twice married; first to Dorcas Hopkins of Hartford; his second wife was Mary Judd, daughter of Thomas Judd of Farmington, Ct. Children by his first wife were:

Jonathan, born March 18th, 1682.

Susannah, born April 25th, 1686.

Mary, born Sept. 29th, 1688.

Mehitable, born March 8th, 1691.

Stephen, born Jan. 21st, 1693.

By his second wife he had one child only:

*Benjamin Webster, born Aug. 9th, 1698.

FIFTH GENERATION.

*Deacon Benjamin Webster settled in Litchfield, Ct., and married Elizabeth Peck, daughter of Deacon Paul Peck. Their children were:

James, born June 2d, 1734.

Elijah, born Dec. 28th, 1732.

Benjamin, born Dec. 8th, 1736.

*Stephen, born May 21st, 1739.

Elizabeth, born Jan. 23d, 1741.

Charles, born March 9th, 1743.

John, born April 3d, 1747.

Deacon Benjamin Webster died July 10th, 1755.

SIXTH GENERATION.

*Stephen Webster married Hanor Kilbourn, daughter of James Kilbourn. Their children were :

Sarah, born September 8th, 1765.

*Truman, born Jan. 12th, 1770.

Orange, born Dec. 28th, 1780.

SEVENTH GENERATION.

*Truman Webster married Diadema Sanford, only child of Stephen Sanford of Northfield, Ct., Oct. 8th, 1795. They settled at Litchfield, where two sons were born. In the fall of 1799 they went to Northfield on a visit where their two boys were taken sick and died and were buried in Northfield, one Nov. 2d, the other Nov. 4th, 1799. Mr. Webster then moved to Northfield, where six children were born as follows :

*David Sanford Webster, born May 30th, 1800.

Sophia Webster, born May 10th, 1802.

Lyman Webster, born Nov. 7th, 1805.

Abigal Webster, born July 10th, 1808.

Annie Webster, born April 12th, 1811.

Sally Webster, born April 11th, 1814.

Sophia married Titus Turner.

Lyman married Elizabeth Smith.

Abigal married Tertius Turner.

Annie married Abner G. Fox.

Sally married Aaron W. Fox.

Truman Webster died in Northfield, Sept. 17th, 1844, aged 74. His wife, Diana Sanford Webster, died Aug. 10th, 1839.

EIGHTH GENERATION.

*David Sanford Webster was married to Clarissa Wattles, daughter of Joseph and Lydia Wattles of Bethel, Ct., June 15th, 1825. They settled in Bethel where two children were born and died in infancy ; after that they had four children born to them, viz :

Henrietta Louise Webster, born June 11th, 1830.

Truman Monroe Webster, born March 13th, 1833.

Erwin Washington Webster, born April 9th, 1835.

Albert William Webster, born Jan. 21st, 1838.

In the year 1837 Mr. Webster bought a large farm at Pleasant Valley, Ct., where the family lived until 1850, when they moved to Waterbury, Ct. In the fall of 1867 Mr. Webster went to Virginia where he was taken sick and died.

[NOTE—Clarissa Wattles Webster was born in Hebron, Ct., May 11th, 1800. and died at Waterbury, Ct., Jan. 15th, 1873, and was buried in Riverside Cemetery.]

NINTH GENERATION.

Henrietta Louise Webster was married October 9th, 1848, to Rev. Apollos Phelp Viets, who was then settled at Canton, Ct. Afterwards they moved to Milford, Ct., and later to Hancock, Mass. After the death of Mrs. Webster (Mrs. Viets' mother) they located at Waterbury, Ct., where they now live. They had six children born to them as follows :

Elsworth Phelph Viets, born Nov. 12th, 1850. (Drowned at Ansonia, Ct., July 28th, 1867.)

Wardsworth B. Viets, born Nov. 18th, 1854.

John C. Viets, born Nov. 18th, 1856.

Mary Louise Viets, born June 16th, 1858.

Beulah Ruth Viets, born June 11th, 1861. (Died Sept. 22d, 1861.)

Henrietta C. Viets, born Nov. 28th, 1863.

Mary Louise Viets was married to William L. Horton, July 3d, 1884.

Truman M. Webster was a mason builder, located at Waterbury, Conn. In the year of 1866 Mr. Webster stepped on a nail which pierced his shoe, making a slight wound on his heel, which brought on an attack of lock-jaw, causing his untimely death November 23d, 1866. On October 15th, 1855, Mr. Webster was married to Miss Sarah White of Durham, Ct. Three children was born to them as follows :

Eugene A. Webster, born July 16th, 1856.

Arthur T. Webster, born August 15, 1858.

Carrie B. Webster, born March 14, 1860.

Eugene A. Webster, now one of the prominent druggists of Springfield, Mass., was married to Miss Nora Mead of New Haven, Ct. They have no children.

Arthur T. Webster, now one of the leading druggists of Waterbury, Ct., was married to Addie Talmadge of Middletown, N. Y., Sept. 2d, 1880. They have one daughter.

Carrie B. Webster was married to E. Darwin Ketcham, Jan. 10th, 1882. They have three children.

Erwin W. Webster commenced his business life as clerk in a store. In the year 1854 he accepted a position as clerk at the station of the Naugatuck Railroad Company's office at Waterbury, Ct., where he remained until 1857, when he was appointed station agent at Ansonia, Ct., a position which he still holds.

Mr. Webster has been elected to various offices in the gift of the town of Derby, having been selectman of the town for eleven years, being first selectman and town agent most of the time. After Ansonia became a city he was elected mayor for two years. In 1896 and 1897 he was elected to represent the town of Ansonia in the state legislature, where he served two terms.

Mr. Webster has been twice married; first to Miss Jennie Miller of Woodbridge, Ct., who died August 15th, 1858, leaving no children. January 1st, 1861, Mr. Webster was married to Miss Sarah Rogers, daughter of Orlando and Therisa Rodgers of Millerton, N. Y. One child was born to them, Alcine Virginia, born April 12th, 1863, and married to Frank Hotchkiss, of Ansonia, April 25th, 1887. November 7th, 1889, Mrs Hotchkiss died, leaving one daughter, Alcine Webster Hotchkiss, who was born January 4th, 1889.

Albert W. Webster learned the machinist trade, at which he worked in Waterbury and New York until 1864, when he located at Ansonia and carried on the manufacture of metal goods until 1868, when he sold his factory and started a dry goods store. In 1873 he sold his store and entered into partnership with Plummer & Galpin, dealers in clothing, boots and shoes, hats, caps, dry goods, etc. In 1876 Mr. Plummer retired from the firm and Galpin & Webster continued the business until 1886, when they sold out to W. A. Fellows & Co.

In 1888 Mr. Webster moved to New Haven, Ct., and founded the Elm City Shoe Store, the business in which he is engaged at the present time.

Mr. Webster was twice married, first on June 13th, 1865, to Eliza Mardenbrough Peck, only child of Eleazer and Louise M. Peck of Ansonia, Ct. Three children were born to them as follows :

Louise Mardenbrough, born March 5th, 1866.

William Wattles and Susie, twins, born March 16, 1869.

Louise Mardenbrough was married to John Disosway, of Staten Island, N. Y. They have one daughter.

William Wattles Webster died April 10th, 1896, at Brooklyn, N. Y.

Susie, his twin sister, died in infancy.

Mrs. Webster died August 10th, 1882, and was buried in Ansonia.

On November 14th, 1887, Mr. Webster was married the second time to Jennie P. Horton, daughter of Joseph S. and Annie Eliza Horton, of Port Ewen on the Hudson. Two children were born to them in New Haven, Ct. :

Albert Raymond Webster, born Sept. 29th, 1889.

Annie Clarissa Webster, born Feb. 21st, 1894.

Both are pupils in the Webster school.

The Webster School District was given the name to honor Noah Webster, L.L. D., a lineal descendant of Governor John Webster.

It is interesting to note that, assuming John Webster was born before the year 1600 (which is probable), the ten generations herein enumerated cover a period of three hundred years, making an average of thirty years to a generation, the time usually allotted.

It would be very interesting and probably not very difficult for some descendant of Governor John Webster to visit Warwickshire, England, and there trace his (John Webster's) ancestry back for ten or twenty generations.

